

ASTRONAUT BIOGRAPHY



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas 77058

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Zena Cardman

NASA Astronaut

Summary:

Zena Cardman was selected by NASA to join the 2017 Astronaut Candidate Class. She reported for duty in August 2017 and having completed the initial astronaut candidate training is now eligible for a mission assignment. The Virginia native holds a Bachelor's of Science in Biology, and a Master's of Science in Marine Sciences from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Her research focused primarily on microorganisms in subsurface environments, ranging from caves to deep sea sediments. Cardman's experience includes multiple Antarctic expeditions.

Personal Data:

Born in Urbana, Illinois, Cardman considers Williamsburg, Virginia, to be home. Her parents, Helen and Larry Cardman, still live in Williamsburg. Cardman enjoys caving, rock climbing, poetry, and power lifting.

Education:

Graduated from Bruton High School in Williamsburg, Virginia. Received a Bachelor's of Science in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Earned a Master's of Science in Marine Sciences from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Experience:

At the University of North Carolina, Cardman studied microbial systems in hydrocarbon seeps, hydrothermal vents, and the Arctic. During that time, she also worked with the Palmer Long-Term Ecological Research group in Antarctica, analyzing ecosystem changes as part of a multi-decadal study. Cardman has additional experience with NASA-supported research in British Columbia, the Canadian high Arctic, Idaho, and Hawaii, and has sailed with the Sea Education Association as Assistant Engineer. At the time of her selection in June 2017, Cardman was a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow at the Pennsylvania State University, investigating microbial metabolism and biogeochemical cycling in cave systems.

NASA Experience:

Cardman reported for duty in August 2017 and completed two years of training as an Astronaut Candidate. She has been assigned technical duties and is currently awaiting flight assignment.

Awards/Honors:

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (2012-2017); Pennsylvania Space Grant Consortium Fellowships (2015-2016); Royster Society Distinguished Graduate Fellowship (2012-2014); Irene F. Lee Chancellor's Award for Most Outstanding Senior Woman (2010); North Carolina Space Grant Fellowships (2008-2010, 2013-2014); Chancellor's Carolina Scholarship (2006-2010).